

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-68 Cancelled.

69. (Allowed) An isolated nucleic acid encoding an endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein that has (i) an amino acid sequence which has at least about 95% sequence similarity with SEQ ID NO:2 and (ii) lysyl oxidase activity.
70. (Allowed) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 69, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein comprises four scavenger receptor cysteine rich (SRCR) domains having an amino acid sequence at least about 95% identical to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs:3, 4, 5, and 6.
71. (Allowed) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 70, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein comprises four scavenger receptor cysteine rich domains having the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs:3, 4, 5, and 6.
72. (Allowed) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 69, which is a cDNA.
73. (Allowed) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 69, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
74. (Allowed) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 73, which is a cDNA.
75. (Allowed) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 73, which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
76. (Allowed) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 75, which is a cDNA.
77. (Allowed) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 69.

78. (Allowed) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 70.
79. (Allowed) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 73.
80. (Allowed) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 75.
81. (Allowed) The vector of claim 77, wherein the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein is expressed in response to estrogen.
82. (Allowed) An isolated host cell transfected with the vector of claim 77.
83. (Allowed) An isolated host cell transfected with the vector of claim 78.
84. (Allowed) An isolated host cell transfected with the vector of claim 79.
85. (Allowed) An isolated host cell transfected with the vector of claim 80.
86. (Allowed) A method for producing endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein, which method comprises isolating the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein produced by the host cell of claim 82, wherein the host cell has been cultured under conditions that provide for expression of the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein by the vector.
87. (Allowed) A method for producing endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein, which method comprises isolating the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein produced by the host cell of claim 83, wherein the host cell has been cultured under conditions that provide for expression of the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein by the vector.

88. (Allowed) A method for producing endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein, which method comprises isolating the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein produced by the host cell of claim 84, wherein the host cell has been cultured under conditions that provide for expression of the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein by the vector.
89. (Allowed) A method for producing endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein, which method comprises isolating the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein produced by the host cell of claim 85, wherein the host cell has been cultured under conditions that provide for expression of the endothelial estrogen regulated gene-7 protein by the vector.
90. (Currently Amended) An isolated oligonucleotide primer or probe of 50-100 nucleotides, wherein said oligonucleotide comprises of at least 20 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 and hybridizes under highly stringent conditions of 0.2x SSC at 68°C and a washing condition of 50% formamide, 4xSSC at 42°C with a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
91. Cancelled.
92. (Allowed) The isolated oligonucleotide primer or probe of claim 90, which is no more than 60 nucleotides in length.
93. (Allowed) The isolated oligonucleotide primer or probe of claim 90, which is no more than 50 nucleotides in length.
94. (Allowed) The isolated oligonucleotide primer or probe of claim 90 which is detectably labeled.
95. (Currently Amended) An isolated oligonucleotide primer or probe of 100 nucleotides, wherein said oligonucleotide comprises of at least 20 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID

NO:1 and hybridizes under highly stringent conditions of 0.2x SSC at 68°C and a washing condition of 50% formamide, 4xSSC at 42°C with a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.